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Mr. Smith drew the attention of the Society to sundry improvements in the manufacture of glass for telescopes, and read an extract from the 18th Vol. of the *Comptes Rendus*, being a communication from M. Arago in relation to the cost of lenses of immense magnitude, which a manufacturer in France proposes to fabricate. The advantages attainable from lenses of such magnitude, some of which have been ordered by the French government, were depicted by Mr. Smith, whose observations gave occasion to remarks from Mr. Justice and Dr. Patterson.

Dr. Dunglison, Reporter, laid before the Society No. 30 of the Proceedings of the Society, from April to June inclusive.

Stated Meeting, September 20.

Present, twenty-eight members.

Dr. BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were announced and read:—

From the Secretary of State, dated Washington, August 24, 1844, announcing that he had forwarded eighteen volumes of the Documents of the Third Session of the Twenty-seventh Congress, for the Library of the Society:—

From the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, dated London, July 17, 1844, acknowledging the receipt of Nos. 28 and 29 of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From Mr. Edward Newman, dated London, July 20, 1844, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. VIII., and the first part of Vol. IX. of the Transactions of this Society; and announcing that he had sent for the Library the third and last part of his *History of British Ferns*:—

From Col. Totten, dated Engineer Department, Washington, August 21, 1844, on presenting to the Library a copy of *Papers on Practical Engineering*, No. 2; being a special report on the sea wall at Lovell's Island, in the harbour of Boston, by Col. S. Thayer, Corps of Engineers:—

From Professor Locke, dated Cincinnati, August 13, 1844, accompanying another series of Observations on Terrestrial Magnetism, &c.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Public Documents, Third Session, 27th Congress, 1842–43. Senate Documents, 4 Vols. 8vo. Senate Journal. 8vo. House Journal. 8vo. Executive Documents. 8 Vols. 8vo. Reports of Committees. 4 Vols. 8vo. Eighteen Volumes in all.—*From the Secretary of State.*

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for the Year 1844. Part I. London, 1844. 4to.—*From the Royal Society.*

Astronomical Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the Year 1841, under the direction of George Biddell Airy, Esq., M.A., Astronomer Royal. Published by order of the Board of Admiralty, in obedience to Her Majesty's command. London, 1843. 4to.—*From the same.*

The same Observations made in the Year 1842. London, 1844. 4to.—*From the same.*

Catalogue of the Places of 1439 Stars, referred to the 1st of January, 1840; deduced from the Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, from 1836, January 1st, to 1841, December 31. London, 1843. 4to.—*From the same.*

Proceedings of the Geological Society of London. Vol. IV. No. 97. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. Instituted February 11, 1814. Vol. V. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Annual Reports of the Council, with the President's Address, and Papers and Notices read to the Society. Penzance, 1842–43. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; held at Cork, in August, 1843. London, 1844. 8vo.—*From the British Association.*

Royal Astronomical Society of London. Proceedings, Vol. VI. Nos. 6, 7, 8. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Boletín Enciclopédico de la Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País. Abril, Mayo. Año 5°. Tomo 3°. Valencia, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

- Boston Journal of Natural History. Containing Papers and Communications, read before the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 4. Boston, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- The African Repository and Colonial Journal. Vol. XX. No. 9. September, 1844. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. VIII. September, 1844. No. 3. 8vo.—*From Dr. Patterson.*
- Papers on Practical Engineering. Published by the Engineer Department, for the use of the Officers of the United States Corps of Engineers. No. 2. A Special Report on the Sea Wall, built in the Year 1843, for the Preservation of Ram Head, at the N. W. end of Lovell's Island, in the Harbour of Boston, Massachusetts. By Col. S. Thayer, U. S. Corps of Engineers. Washington, 1844. 8vo.—*From Col. Totten, Engineer Department.*
- The Electrical Magazine. Vol. I. No. 5. July, 1844. Published Quarterly. London. 8vo.—*From Charles V. Walker, Esq., Editor.*
- The Zoologist: a Popular Monthly Magazine of Natural History, &c. Nos. XVI to XX. inclusive. April to August, 1844. London. 8vo.—*From Edward Newman, Esq., Editor.*
- The Phytologist: a Botanical Journal. Nos. 38 and 39. July, August, 1844. London. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- A History of British Ferns: by Edward Newman, F. L. S., B. S. &c. 2d Edition. Part 3. London, 1844. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. II. September, 1844. No. 21. 8vo.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*
- Descriptions of Shells, from the Province of Tavoy, in British Burmah.—*By Augustus A. Gould, M.D.*
- Descriptions and Notices of some of the Land Shells of Cuba. By the same. From the Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. IV. No. 4.—*From the Author.*
- The Medical Student: or, Aids to the Study of Medicine. A revised and modified edition. By Robley Dunglison, M.D., &c. Philadelphia, 1844. 12mo.—*From the Author.*
- Street Talk, about an Ordinance of Councils, passed the 11th July, 1844, organising a Military Force, &c.—*From Charles Ingersoll, Esq.*

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

Astronomische Nachrichten. Professor Schumacher, Editor. Nos. 505 to 510, inclusive, June 15 to July 25, 1844. Title and Index to Vol. XXI. 4to.

Dr. Dunglison announced, that he would be prepared to deliver, pursuant to appointment, the discourse in commemoration of the late President of the Society, in the course of next month. Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Kane, a committee consisting of Mr. Kane, Mr. Ord, and Dr. Patterson, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Charles J. Ingersoll announced the death of Joseph Bonaparte, Count Survilliers, a member of the Society, who died at Florence, on the 28th day of July, 1844, in his 77th year. A high eulogium on his character was delivered by Mr. Ingersoll, as well as by Dr. Chapman, and on motion of the latter, Mr. Ingersoll was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

Professor Locke presented a farther series of observations on Terrestrial Magnetism, which was referred to the same Committee as the former. The Committee are Professor Frazer, Mr. M'Ewen, and Professor Bache.

Mr. Kane, on the part of a Committee to negotiate with individuals who have claims against the Society, reported progress.

Mr. Smith drew the attention of the Society to certain phenomena, presented by a house provided with a lightning rod, and recently struck by lightning. The electrical fluid did not strike the rod, but communicated with it before reaching the ground. Mr. Smith considered that the rod was not sufficiently elevated above the house.